

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6148

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, NO, TU

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - POST OF DIRECTOR OF UN DIVISION NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF: GENEVA 5895; USUN 3457

1. IN CALL ON ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL COIDAN AUGUST 5, I INFORMED HIM OF USG'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR BRAENDEN'S APPOINTMENT TO POST OF DIRECTOR DND BY DATE MARTENS' DEPARTURE AND OF USUN'S DEMARCHES TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL DAVIDSON ON BEHALF BRAENDEN'S CANDIDACY. I MADE CLEAR THAT OTHER ALTERNATIVES, NOTABLY, MICUTA AND BAYER, WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

2. IN MY PRESENTATION I OUTLINED WHY WE BELIEVE BRAENDEN IS MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE. I STRESSED THAT OUR FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF HIS ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY UN'S OWN MANAGEMENT SURVEYS WHICH, WHILE COMMENTING IN EXTENSO ON SHORTCOMINGS OF DND'S MANAGEMENT, SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED LABORATORY FROM SUCH CRITICISM. I ALSO REFERRED TO USG'S PRIORITY INTEREST IN AND STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO CONTROL DRUG ABUSE AS WITNESSED BY OUR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFDAC.

3. COIDAN STATED THAT QUESTION OF DND DIRECTORSHIP
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06148 051442Z

WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN DAVIDSON AND WINSPEARE WHEN

FORMER WAS IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS SUMMER, BUT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. SAID HE WOULD INFORM WINSPEARE OF USG'S POSITION. ADDED HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED UNTIL OCTOBER WHEN WINSPEARE WOULD BE IN NEW YORK. THEREFORE THERE MIGHT BE FEW WEEKS LAPSE BETWEEN DATE OF MARTEN'S DEPARTURE AND APPOINTMENT OF HIS SUCCESSOR.

4. I STATED THAT QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BE DESIGNATED ACTING DURING THIS LAPSE WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO USG, ADDING WE HOPED THIS WOULD BE BRAENDEN. NOTED THAT BRAENDEN, WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS D-1 POST, IS DND OFFICIAL WITH GREATEST SENIORITY HAVING BEEN WITH DND FOR OVER 20 YEARS. ALSO NOTED THAT BY CONTRAST MICUTA IS OFFICIAL SECONDED FROM UNDP WITH ONLY 3 YEARS SERVICE DND AND NARCOTICS FIELD.

5. COMMENT: MICUTA'S CURRENT SECONDMENT TO DND EXPIRES NEXT DEC WHEN HE WILL HAVE REACHED AGE OF SIXTY. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND HE IS CURRENTLY TRYING ARRANGE EXTENSION AND THAT AGE FACTOR UNLIKELY BE CONTROLLING SINCE CURRENT PRACTICE IS TO PERMIT UN OFFICIALS TO WORK UNTIL AGE OF SIXTY-TWO IF THEY SO REQUEST. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MICUTA'S CONTINUING HERE, AND PARTICULARLY IN CAPACITY OF DIRECTOR OR ACTING DIRECTOR, WOULD BE ADVERSE USG'S DRUG CONTROL INTERESTS. SINCE MICUTA'S TALENTS IN ANY CASE LIE IN AREA OF FIELD WORK, WE WOULD HOPE THREAT OF HIS CANDIDACY DND MIGHT BE REMOVED BY UNDP'S ASSIGNING HIM ELSEWHERE WITHIN NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. WE WOULD HOPE THIS COULD BE PROMPTLY ARRANGED.DALE

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